

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11 are amended. In this Response, Applicants do not add or cancel any claims. Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 remain in the Application. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants remove the word "leaving" in Claims 1 and 11 and amend the relevant portions of the claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jurgensen I (WO 01/61071) corresponding to (U.S. 2003/0054099) in view of Jurgensen II (WO/02/27064) corresponding to (U.S. 2003/0192471) and/or Gartner (U.S. Patent No. 4,947,790).

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the relied upon references must teach or suggest every limitation of the claim such that the invention as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one skilled in the art. Amended Claim 1 recites the elements of "wherein the transfer gas distributor is a conic block or a conic plate with an apex aligned with a transfer gas inlet and pointing towards the transfer gas inlet in order to distribute widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate the transfer gas flowing from the transfer gas inlet." Applicants submit that none of the cited references teach or suggest these limitations.

The Examiner recognizes that Jurgensen I does not disclose the conic block or the conic plate, but relies on Jurgensen II and/or Gartner to cure the deficiency. Jurgensen II discloses that the carrier gas (or transfer gas) flows through a gas-permeable partition (16) towards the apex of the partition. Gas flowing toward the apex of a conic shape is not distributed widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate. Thus, Jurgensen II does not teach or suggest distributing the transfer gas widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate. Gartner discloses that the carrier gas (or transfer gas) flows through an inlet chamber (9) that includes a powder saturator (13). The

powder saturator has a cross-section that increases toward the gas outlet (FIG. 3). Applicants note that Gartner does not explicitly disclose that the powder saturator has a conic shape. Moreover, Gartner does not teach or suggest distributing the transfer gas widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate. Rather, the carrier gas of Gartner flows through the inclined surface of the powder saturator. Thus, none of the cited references teach or suggest each of the elements of amended Claim 1.

Moreover, the Examiner indicates that claim 13 of Jurgensen I describes a "diluted gas supply source" as recited in Claim 1. However, claim 13 of Jurgensen I recites "the device according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the carrier gas used is Ar, H₂, N₂, He, individually or mixed." The cited claim does not include any reference to the diluted gas supply source as alleged by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request clarification.

Analogous discussions apply to independent Claim 11, which is similarly amended Claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, and 12 respectively depend from Claims 1 and 11 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 1, none of the cited references teach or suggest each element of these claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6, 8-12 are requested.

B. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jurgensen I in view of Jurgensen II and/or Gartner for the reasons applied to Claim 1, and taken in view of Ohashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,885) or Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 6,444,039).

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 1, Jurgensen I in view of Jurgensen II and/or Gartner does not teach or suggest each element of Claim 2.

Ohashi/Nguyen is relied on for disclosing the shower curtain. However, Ohashi/Nguyen does not disclose distributing the transfer gas widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate. Thus, the cited references do not, separately or in combination, teach or suggest each of the elements of Claim 2. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2 are respectfully requested.

C. Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jurgensen I in view of Jurgensen II and/or Gartner for the reasons applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Ozias (U.S. Patent No. 4,846,102).

The Examiner relies on Ozias for teaching the purging operation. However, Ozias does not cure the deficiency of the other cited references, namely, the lack of distributing the transfer gas widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate. Thus, none of the cited references teach or suggest each of the elements of Claim 11 and its dependent Claim 12.

D. Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jurgensen I in view of Jurgensen II and/or Gartner for the reasons applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Forrest I (U.S. 5,554,220), Forrest II (U.S. 6,337,102), and Posa (U.S. Patent No. 4,747,367).

The Examiner relies on Forrest I and Forrest II for disclosing the deposition of plural layers, and Posa for disclosing flushing a vapor coating reactor. However, none of these references, separately or in combination, teaches or suggests distributing the transfer gas widely along an outer inclined plane of the conic block or the conic plate. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 11 and its dependent Claim 12 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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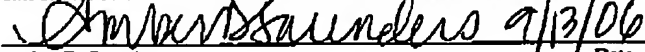
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